



Some Tips for Researching Business History at the Newberry Library

The Newberry Library has a variety of materials that can be used to study the history of businesses and corporations, ranging from electronic reference sources to corporate archives of local businesses (The Library has particularly strong resources for railroad and printing business history). Here are some sources to assist you in finding information on local business history in the Newberry Library collections. Librarians at the Reference Desk or the Local and Family History Reference Desk are also available to help you with your research.

Online Searching

The Newberry Library Online Catalog (<http://i-share.carli.illinois.edu/nby/>) is the best place to begin your research. Subject headings such as the following will help you retrieve general business history sources:

Business --- History
Business enterprises --- History
Corporations --- United States --- History

The following subject headings are useful for finding information on specific kinds of businesses:

Printing --- United States --- History
Railroads --- United States --- History
Type and type-founding --- United States --- History

To find industry-specific periodicals or membership directories, use subject headings such as:

Library Associations --- United States --- Directory
Paper Industry --- periodicals

Local directories also contain information on industries or individual companies:

Chicago (Ill.) --- Directories
Chicago (Ill.) --- Industries
Chicago (Ill.) --- Manufactures

Many of the Newberry Library's directories are not present in the Online Catalog. For a supplemental list of directories in the Library's collections please go to <http://www.newberry.org/genealogy/dirholdings.html>.

Catalogs can be a rich source of information about business history:

Catalogs, Booksellers'
Commercial catalogs
Printing machinery and supplies --- Catalogs

Individual companies can be searched as a subject or as an author, both on the Newberry Library Online Catalog and on WorldCat:

A.C. McClurg & Co.
Chicago Daily News, Inc.
Pullman's Palace Car Company
R.R. Donnelley and Sons Company

General Resources for Studying Business History

Business Founding Date Directory. Newberry Library Call Number Ref HD2785 K4.

Guide to Business History. Newberry Library Call Number H 71 .484.

Local Businesses: Exploring their History. Newberry Library Call Number HD 2785 .K43 1990.

Newspapers & Periodicals

America: History & Life. This resource indexes and abstracts articles from over 2,000 journals on Canadian and U.S. History. It is available both in print (Newberry Library Call Number Ref Z 1236 .A48) and online.

Business History Review. This periodical, published by the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, is available at the Newberry Library both in print (Newberry Library Call Number H 71008 .137 [1926-1987]) and online through JSTOR (1954-2001).

JSTOR. Full text of over 50 business and economic journals is available through JSTOR on Newberry Library computers. A list of business journals is available here: <http://www.jstor.org/browse#Business>.

Poole's Index to Periodical Literature. Newberry Library Call Number Ref AI 3 .P7 1938. This resource indexes over 400 American and English nineteenth-century periodicals, many of which are available in the Newberry Library's collections.

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Database. You can search for articles about your company in the *Chicago Tribune* (for the years 1849-1986) and the *New York Times* (for the years 1851-2004) on Newberry Library computers.

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature. Newberry Library Call Number Ref AI 3 .R48.

Primary Source Materials

The Newberry Library holds the corporate archives for several railroad companies and printing companies, as well as the Newberry Library's own archive. A list of Newberry Library modern manuscript collections related to business is available here: <http://www.newberry.org/collections/businessabstracts.html>.

ArchiveGrid.

<http://archivegrid.org/web/index.jsp>

Directory of Business Archives in the United States and Canada.

Newberry Library Call Number Ref HD 2770.5 D57 1993.

Directory of Corporate Archives in the United States and Canada.

<http://www.hunterinformation.com/corporat.htm>

Sanborn Maps for Illinois. The Newberry Library subscribes to this database of historical insurance maps of Illinois, which is available on Newberry Library computers. The maps often include detailed drawings of the businesses, and occasionally details about operational hours or numbers of employees.

Resources for Studying the History of Chicago Businesses

Chicago and Cook County Biography and Industry File. <http://www.newberry.org/genealogy/CBIF.pdf>

This file, part of the Newberry Library Card Catalog, indexes biographical and industrial sketches of people and industries that appeared in collective biographies and industrial guides such as *Chicago & Its Distinguished Citizens* and *Manufacturing & Wholesale Industries of Chicago*. Individuals are filed before corporations so, for example, "Pullman, George M." precedes "Pullman Company."

Chicago Neighborhood Research Guide. <http://www.newberry.org/genealogy/neighborhoods.html>

Genealogy and Local History librarians at the Newberry Library compiled this list of books, maps, and demographic information about Chicago neighborhoods.